



## Southern Plains Farm Labor Report

Issue No.: PR-160-14, November 20, 2014



---

Southern Plains Regional Field Office • Post Office Box 70, Austin, Texas 78767 • 800-626-3142 • [www.nass.usda.gov/tx](http://www.nass.usda.gov/tx)

---

**Contact:** Lynita Gist or Jason Hardegree

This report contains the results from the October 2014 Farm Labor Survey collected during the last two weeks of October. Respondents were asked the number of hired workers, hours worked and wages for the July and October 2014 reference weeks. Estimates for the Southern Plains region were made possible by data provided by respondents in Oklahoma and Texas. Our thanks to all who responded to the October 2014 Farm Labor Survey.

**Southern Plains Highlights:** There were 59,000 **workers hired** directly by farm operators on Southern Plains farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 2014, down 20 percent from the July 2013 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators totaled 55,000 for the week of October 12-18, 2014, down 15 percent from the October 2013 reference week.

**Wage rates** for hired workers in the Southern Plains during the July 2014 reference week averaged \$10.74 per hour, down 1 percent from a year earlier. For the October 2014 reference week, farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$10.91, 1 percent above the October 2013 wage and up 2 percent from July 2014.

**U.S. Highlights:** There were 838,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 6-12, 2014, down 8 percent from the July 2013 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 782,000 for the reference week of October 12-18, 2014, down 10 percent from the October 2013 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$11.96 per hour during the July 2014 reference week, up 2 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.36 per hour, up 3 percent, while livestock workers earned \$11.26 per hour compared with \$10.88 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.33 per hour, was up 3 percent from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 for hired workers during the reference week, down 1 percent from July 2013.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.12 per hour during the October 2014 reference week, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.52 per hour, up 1 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$11.29, up 3 percent from last year. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.46 per hour, was up 2 percent from a year earlier. The number of hours worked averaged 41.3 for hired workers during the reference week, down 1 percent from October 2013.

Link to the full U.S. report: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1063>

**Hired Workers and Wage Rates, Southern Plains Region**  
**[Excludes agricultural service workers]**

Farm employment	July 7-13, 2013	October 6-12, 2013	January 12-18, 2014	April 6-12, 2014	July 6-12, 2014	October 12-18, 2014
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more .....	46	45	31	37	42	42
149 days or less .....	28	20	8	12	17	13
Total .....	74	65	39	49	59	55
	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)
Hours worked by hired workers .....	37.9	38.1	37.4	37.7	37.0	38.6
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined ....	10.40	10.40	10.50	10.10	10.25	10.55
Field .....	10.11	10.10	10.29	9.75	10.15	10.61
Livestock .....	11.02	10.87	10.70	10.58	10.35	10.48
All hired workers .....	10.85	10.85	11.15	10.66	10.74	10.91

<sup>1</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

**Hired Workers and Wage Rates, United States**  
**[Excludes agricultural service workers and Alaska]**

Farm employment	July 7-13, 2013	October 6-12, 2013	January 12-18, 2014	April 6-12, 2014	July 6-12, 2014	October 12-18, 2014
	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
Hired Workers						
150 days or more .....	634	619	459	558	583	561
149 days or less .....	272	252	81	132	255	221
Total .....	906	871	540	690	838	782
	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)	(hours per week)
Hours worked by hired workers .....	40.9	41.7	38.9	40.1	40.5	41.3
	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)	(dollars per hour)
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined ....	10.99	11.27	11.20	11.12	11.33	11.46
Field .....	11.02	11.38	11.10	11.02	11.36	11.52
Livestock .....	10.88	10.93	11.36	11.35	11.26	11.29
All hired workers .....	11.68	11.96	12.23	12.01	11.96	12.12

<sup>1</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.